

**PASSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS IN ACEHNESE EDUCATIONAL
TEXTS: A FUNCTIONAL AND MORPHOSYNTACTIC ANALYSIS**

Inas Ghina^{1*}, Nurlayli Yanti², Wita Dwi Payana³, Siswantia Sar⁴
¹ghina@isbiaceh.ac.id, ²nurlayliyanti@isbiaceh.ac.id, ³witadwipayana@isbiaceh.ac.id,
⁴siswantia@isbiaceh.ac.id

ISBI ACEH

Received: February 25, 2026; Accepted: April 1, 2026

ABSTRACT

This study investigates passive constructions in Acehnese narrative and descriptive texts presented in Acehnese language textbooks. The research aims to identify the structural patterns and discourse functions of passive forms in instructional materials used for language learning. The data consist of narrative and descriptive texts selected from Acehnese language textbooks, comprising two textbooks and five representative texts, which were analyzed to identify recurring passive patterns and their communicative roles. The analysis employs Interlinear Glossed Text (IGT) annotation and the Functional Discourse Grammar (FDG) framework to examine how passive forms are structured and used in context. The study identifies four types of passive constructions in Acehnese: agentive, agentless, generic, and stative-resultative. The findings show that verbal prefixes play a central role in organizing participant roles and shaping clause focus. In the analyzed texts, passive constructions function not only to promote the patient but also to manage topical emphasis in narrative discourse. The results further indicate that the textbooks tend to emphasize a limited range of passive forms, which may influence learners' understanding of Acehnese voice patterns. These findings suggest implications for discourse-based Acehnese language teaching and future research on textual organization.

Keywords: Passive Constructions, Acehnese Language, Morphosyntactic Analysis, Pedagogical Register, Language Teaching

A. INTRODUCTION

Syntax plays an important role in understanding how sentence structures are formed and how they work in a language. In linguistics, syntax helps us not only understand the function of language but also analyze texts and extract meaning, including in translation and other language applications. Syntactic processes allow us to break down sentences into smaller parts, which are then combined to form complete sentences. These parts, consisting of words and other components, make up the basic structure of a sentence, which is essential for further analysis in different linguistic contexts, including the study of passive voice (Rahmah & Subiyanto, 2024).

In the case of passive sentences in Indonesian, syntax plays an important role in understanding how sentence structures are formed and changed from active to passive forms. Passive sentences in Indonesian usually have a subject who receives the action, while the agent of the action (who was the subject in the active sentence) can be omitted or placed in a prepositional phrase with the word *oleh*. This process shifts the focus of the sentence from the agent to the object receiving the action. In syntax, passive sentences in Indonesian use verb forms that change, such as the addition of the prefixes *di-* or *-kan*, to show that the subject is receiving the action. A syntactic analysis of passive constructions therefore provides insights into sentence structure and information structure.

Passive constructions in Acehnese show that verbal prefixes act as functional heads, introducing external arguments and encoding features like person, number, and the politeness of the agent. This means that prefixes not only show the grammatical relationship between arguments but also reflect how the speaker views the agent's social status. In passive constructions, the agent is syntactically moved to a lower position or omitted, changing the focus from the agent to the patient or event. However, the features of the agent are still implied through the verbal prefixes, as shown in examples a and b. According to Taib & Mulyadi (2023), passive constructions are marked by promoting the subject or patient to the subject position and lowering the agent to a less important role in syntax and discourse. However, in Acehnese, reducing the agent's importance does not mean social neutrality, because the choice of prefixes like *geu-* (honorific) and *ji-* (non-honorific) still show the agent's social status and level of importance. Therefore, analyzing passive constructions in Acehnese must consider the overall structure, including how argument syntax and the pronominal affix system reflect social relationships in the discourse, as shown in Table 1.

- a. *Ma geupajoh bu*
 S P O
- b. *Bu geupajoh le ma*
 S P Agent

Table 1 Acehnese Verbal Prefixes and Their Role in Argument Structure Encoding (Wildan, 2010)

Prefix	Encoded Role	Example	Gloss
<i>lon-</i>	1sg	<i>lon-jak</i>	I go
<i>ku-</i>	2sg	<i>ku-jak</i>	I go
<i>ta-</i>	1PL.INCL	<i>ta-jak</i>	we go
<i>meu-</i> 1 st plural	1st person plural collective/reciproca	<i>meu-jak</i>	we go
<i>ka-</i>	1PL.EXCL	<i>ka-jak</i>	you go
<i>neu-</i>	2nd person singular polite/honorific	<i>neu-jak</i>	you go
<i>ji-</i>	3SG	<i>ji-jak</i>	s/he goes
<i>geu-</i>	3rd person singular honorific	<i>geu-jak</i>	s/he goes
<i>ka-</i> 2 nd plural	2PL	<i>ka-jak</i>	you (all) go
<i>ta-</i> 3 rd plural	3PL honorific	<i>ta-jak</i>	we go
<i>geu-</i> 3 rd plural	3rd person plural honorific	<i>geu-jak</i>	we go

The debate over passive constructions in Acehnese began with Lawler's (1977) claim that Acehnese had a passive construction in which, unusually, the agent (rather than the surface subject) triggered subject agreement. This led to the hypothesis that the agent occupied the subject position and was later relegated to adjunct status. However, this analysis was challenged by Durie (1988), who argued that the construction was not passive but a topic–theme structure with an ergative-marked agent, and even proposed that Acehnese lacks a grammatical subject. The debate was subsequently revisited by Legate (2012), who demonstrated that Acehnese does exhibit passive constructions and that verbal prefixes function as morphological realizations of functional heads introducing external arguments.

While these studies have significantly advanced the theoretical understanding of Acehnese voice, they have primarily focused on syntactic structure and argument alignment within formal linguistic theory. Limited attention has been given to how passive constructions function across different types of passive variation, particularly in educational texts and narrative discourse. Moreover, the interaction between morphology, discourse organization, and degrees of transitivity in Acehnese passive constructions remains underexplored. Therefore, this study addresses this gap by examining passive constructions in Acehnese language textbooks through an integrated analysis combining Functional Discourse Grammar and Interlinear Glossed Text annotation.

In addition to FDG, this study draws on the morphosyntax–pragmatics interface, which refers to the relationship between grammatical structure and language use in context. This perspective explains that morphosyntactic forms are shaped not only by formal rules, but also by discourse factors such as perspective, information structure, discourse relations, and common ground. Recent studies also show that morphosyntactic variation is closely connected to discourse context and pragmatic interpretation (Begus & Dąbkowski, 2025; Shin & Miller, 2022; Syrett, 2024). This framework is relevant to the present study because Acehnese passive constructions need to be understood not only in terms of syntax, but also in relation to discourse function and participant prominence.

Yan & Jiang (2025) further explore how integrating discourse analysis in education enhances reading comprehension, critical thinking, and language skills, which aligns with the approach of analyzing Acehnese passive constructions in terms of both grammar and discourse function. Moreover, recent studies on Austronesian voice systems provide a broader way to understand passive constructions in Acehnese. Research on Mandar, Austronesian voice, and split voice shows that voice morphology is not only a formal difference between active and passive forms, but also part of a larger system related to argument structure, case marking, extraction, and the prominence of participants in the clause. In Mandar, for example, voice alternations affect argument structure, case-marking patterns, and the prominence of one pivot argument in the clause (Brodkin, 2022). Comparative studies on Austronesian voice also show that voice marking is closely connected to the status of prominent arguments and to subject-only extraction restrictions (Begus & Dąbkowski, 2025). In addition, recent work on split voice suggests that voice contrasts may reflect differences in how subject properties are shared across arguments (Bogren, 2024). Therefore, Acehnese passive constructions can be understood not as one fixed category, but as part of a gradient voice system in which morphosyntactic marking, transitivity, and participant prominence work together.

Based on this background, this study aims to investigate the typology and structural variation of passive constructions in Acehese language textbooks, with a focus on the interaction between syntax, morphology, and discourse. Specifically, the study seeks to: 1) identify and classify the types of passive constructions in Acehese, including agentive, agentless, generic, and stative-resultative passives; 2) analyze the syntactic positioning and semantic roles of subjects and agents across different passive types; and 3) examine the role of verbal prefixes in encoding argument relations, degrees of transitivity, and sociopragmatic distinctions in Acehese passive constructions. Furthermore, this study explores how passive constructions in Acehese reflect a gradient system of voice and transitivity, rather than a binary opposition between active and passive. By integrating syntactic, morphological, and discourse-based perspectives, this research aims to contribute to typological discussions on voice systems in Austronesian languages and to provide a more nuanced account of how grammatical structure interacts with social and pragmatic factors in Acehese.

B. METHOD

This study employed a qualitative descriptive design to examine passive constructions in Acehese. The primary data were obtained from narrative and descriptive short stories presented in Acehese language textbooks. Passive clauses were extracted from these texts and served as the main data for analysis. The study integrates Interlinear Glossed Text (IGT) and Functional Discourse Grammar (FDG) as complementary analytical frameworks. IGT was used as a linguistic annotation format consisting of transcription, morpheme segmentation, glosses, and free translation, enabling detailed morphosyntactic examination of passive constructions (Ginn et al., 2024; He et al., 2024; Zhao et al., 2020). FDG was employed to analyze how passive clauses encode structural and discourse functions, particularly in organizing information, backgrounding agents, and highlighting patients or events in narrative discourse (Mackenzie, 2019; Velasco, 2025).

Data collection involved carefully reading the selected textbook materials and identifying clauses containing passive constructions. Each clause was annotated using IGT conventions, including morpheme segmentation and glossing. The annotated data were organized into a classification table to facilitate systematic comparison of passive types based on syntactic and morphological features. The annotated data were then analyzed qualitatively to identify patterns of passive formation and variation. Passive constructions were classified into four types—agentive, agentless, generic, and stative-resultative—based on 1) the presence or absence of an overt agent, 2) syntactic positioning of arguments, 3) the verbal prefix used, and 4) the degree of transitivity reflected in the clause structure. The combination of IGT and FDG enabled a systematic examination of both morphosyntactic properties and discourse functions of passive constructions in the analyzed texts.

C. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

To address the research objectives, the findings are organized according to the typology of passive constructions identified in the Acehese data. This section is divided into four subsections: agentive passives, agentless passives, generic passives, and stative-resultative constructions. Each subsection describes the structural characteristics of a specific passive type, the syntactic and semantic roles of arguments, as well as the functions of verbal prefixes in encoding transitivity and sociopragmatic distinctions.

Across the dataset, passive constructions display recurring morphosyntactic patterns. The data show that verbal prefixes such as *geu-*, *ji-*, and *mu-* co-occur with patient promotion to subject position and optional or absent agent realization. In clauses where the agent is overtly expressed, it is typically introduced by the preposition *lé* ‘by’. The predicates in these constructions are predominantly dynamic, although stative-resultative forms are also attested. These structural patterns provide the empirical basis for the typology presented in the following subsections. The analysis further reveals that verbal prefixes in Acehnese do not merely signal voice alternation. In active clauses, prefixes such as *ku-*, *ta-*, *neu-*, and *geu-* index person and politeness features of the external argument. In passive constructions, however, the same prefixes may remain attached to the verb even when the agent is omitted or demoted, indicating a retained morphological link to the external argument. This distributional pattern is described in detail within each passive subtype below.

The textbook data also show an uneven distribution of passive-forming prefixes. Although Acehnese possesses several verbal prefixes that may occur in passive constructions, the materials analyzed predominantly employ the prefix *geu-*. Other prefixes such as *ji-* and *mu-* appear less frequently. This distribution is presented descriptively in the findings, before its pedagogical implications are considered in the discussion section. The following subsections elaborate on each passive type based on the structural evidence observed in the data.

1. Agentive Passives

The eventive passive constructions in the data demonstrate the promotion of the patient to the grammatical subject position, while the agent is relegated to the oblique position, which can optionally be realized through the preposition *lé* ‘by’. Based on the IGT analysis, the predicates in these clauses are dynamic and describe events involving real actions, such as *geuba* ‘to carry’ (1) and *geupoh* ‘to hit’ (2). Therefore, these constructions preserve the full semantic argument relations but alter the syntactic hierarchy by elevating the patient to the subject position and relegating the agent to the oblique argument.

This analysis addresses the research objectives by demonstrating how passive constructions in Acehnese encode participant roles through syntactic reorganization and how verbal prefixes contribute to the expression of argument structure and discourse functions.

- (1) *Nabi geuba le ma gobnyan jak ziarah kubu ayahgeuh.*
Prophet 3SG-bring by mother 3SG go pilgrimage grave father-3SG
‘The Prophet was taken by his mother to visit his father’s grave.’
- (2) *Pane na uleue lom, ka geupoh le Pawang Sabi.*
where exist snake again PRF 3SG-kill by Pawang Sabi
‘There was no snake anymore; it had already been killed by Pawang Sabi.’

Sentence (3) serves as a representative example of an eventive passive with two serial predicates sharing the same patient. The prefix *geu-* in *geupako* and *geupeutimang* marks the verbal functional head that introduces an external argument, while the phrase *lé ureung gampông* identifies the agent as an oblique constituent. Semantically, this clause encodes a collective dynamic event involving care and management actions, thus displaying a relatively high degree of transitivity. However, the event also carries a habitual aspect, reflecting repeated social practices within the community.

(3) *Buet meuseuraya nyan lagèe nyan that geupako ngon geupeutimang lé ureung gampông.*

work mutual. help DEM like DEM very 3SG-care with 3SG-manage by people village
'Such communal work is highly cared for and managed by the villagers.'

Within the FDG framework, agentive passives in the analyzed textbook data operate at multiple levels. At the interpersonal level, the patient is treated as the discourse topic, whereas the agent is backgrounded. At the representational level, the predicate encodes a dynamic Actor–Undergoer configuration, although the Actor is syntactically demoted. At the morphosyntactic level, verbal prefixes and prepositional phrases encode the mismatch between semantic roles and syntactic functions, which is a defining characteristic of passive constructions.

Discursively, the eventive passive in Acehnese functions not only as a syntactic mechanism but also as a narrative device that highlights events and cultural entities, bringing them to the center of attention, while generalizing the agent as a normative collective actor. In addition to the *geu-* prefix, the data also reveal the use of the *ji-* prefix in eventive passive constructions, particularly when the agent is referred to as children or animals, as seen in sentences (3) and (4). The *ji-* prefix marks a non-honorable third-person plural external argument and is semantically associated with an agent of lower animation or social status within the participant hierarchy. In sentence (4), the prefix *ji-* in *jibantu* reflects the plural agent introduced earlier in the text, specifically children. Although the agent is explicitly expressed through the phrase *lé awak nyan*, the patient remains promoted to the subject position, maintaining the characteristics of an eventive passive with a dynamic predicate and the agent as an oblique argument. Discursively, the use of *ji-* signifies the agent as a collective actor of lesser pragmatic salience, keeping the focus on the event of assistance as a social activity.

(4) *Le that nyang jeuet jibantu lé awak nyan.*

many very REL can 3PL-help by people DEM
'There are very many things that can be helped by them.'

(5) *Gura that takalon ureung jipeusubra lé tulô nyan dum.*

funny very 1PL-see person 3PL-CAUS-carry by bird sparrow DEM all
'It was very funny to see people being carried around by those sparrows.'

In sentence (5), the prefix *ji-* is used in the causative predicate *jipeusubra* with a non-human agent (*tulô nyan* 'sparrow'). The patient (*ureung* 'person') is promoted to the subject position, and the predicate remains eventive and dynamic, placing this construction at a high level of transitivity within the passive continuum. The choice of *ji-* indicates that the agent has a lower level of animation compared to an adult human agent and is pragmatically treated as a background actor. Structurally, this sentence consists of the matrix clause *gura that takalon*, which conveys the speaker's evaluative attitude, and the embedded passive clause *ureung jipeusubra lé tulô nyan dum*, which represents a perceived event. This demonstrates that eventive passive constructions in Acehnese are not limited to main clauses but can also function as embedded clauses within a higher predication framework, thus highlighting the integration of passive syntactic structure and event packaging at the discourse level.

These patterns suggest that, within this corpus, Acehnese passive constructions are multifunctional. They operate both as a syntactic mechanism for promoting the patient to subject position and as a discourse strategy for organizing topical focus and encoding social distinctions among participants. The data further show that passive prefixes not only signal the presence of an external argument but also index distinctions related to animacy and social hierarchy. In clauses where the agent is overtly expressed, the passive–active relationship remains structurally transparent, allowing straightforward reconstruction into an equivalent active clause.

2. Agentless Passives Construction

In the analyzed data, many passive constructions explicitly omit the agent. This phenomenon is common in narrative texts, as the agent of the action is often introduced earlier in the discourse or deemed irrelevant to the development of the story. Wegner (2019) also noted that the omission of external arguments is a key feature distinguishing passive constructions from other types, such as the periphrastic perfective construction. Moreover, passive constructions without an agent allow the speaker or writer to focus on the action itself or the entity affected by it, rather than the agent of the action (Lingle, 2018). This finding is particularly relevant in the context of Acehnese, where the agent is often not explicitly realized in passive sentences, but is still represented structurally through verbal morphology or inferred from the discursive context.

This analysis directly addresses the research objectives by examining how passive constructions in Acehnese encode participant roles syntactically and how verbal prefixes function to structure discourse and manage information flow. In this case, the agent functions as "discourse-old" information and therefore does not need to be lexically expressed. This strategy of agent omission allows the speaker or writer to maintain topical continuity and shift the focus of the narrative to the event or patient. For instance, in sentence (6), the prefix *geu-* refers to the child's parents, who were previously mentioned in the text, while in sentences (7)-(9) the agent can be inferred to be the Japanese colonialists, which eliminates the need to explicitly state it. Notably, in sentence (8), both the agent and the addressee or secondary object argument are omitted, indicating a high degree of abstraction in the representation of participants within the narrative discourse.

The omission of the agent is motivated by discursive factors across various levels of representation. At the interpersonal level, the agent is treated as outdated information, while the patient or event takes center stage in the discourse. At the representational level, the clauses represent dynamic events affecting the patient, without emphasizing the agent, which aligns with the narrative's objective of highlighting the event or experience. From a morphosyntactic perspective, the verbal prefix marks a functional feature that structurally indexes the presence of external arguments, allowing for the omission of the agent without violating the grammatical requirements of argument structure. As a result, these constructions represent discourse-driven passive strategies in Acehnese, where the omission of the agent helps maintain narrative coherence and directs the reader's attention to the event or patient as the focal point of the information.

(6) *idin pih geubrie*

Permission EMP PASS-give

'Permission was given (by someone).'

- (7) *Rakyat chik putik tuha muda jipaksa pubuet-buet keu peumeurintah Jeupang.*
people big small old young 3PL-force work-RED for government Japan
'People, young and old, were forced to work for the Japanese government.'
- (8) *Jipaksa kueh kurôk-kurôk, peugot lapangan teureubang.*
3PL-force dig tunnel-RED make air.field
'They were forced to dig tunnels and build airfields.'
- (9) *Dum peue buet jiyue pubuet uro malam.*
all work 3PL-order do day night
'All work was ordered to be done day and night.'

Another instance of a passive construction without an agent is found in sentences (10)(11), where the agent is not lexically expressed because it is not considered pragmatically important within the narrative context. This omission reflects the tendency in the discourse to focus on the event or the patient rather than the agent, further illustrating how passive constructions in Acehese can be employed as a strategic narrative tool to shift attention away from the agent and towards the action or the entity affected by it.

- (10) *Kayee- Kayee nyan na nyang geupeuget keu kayee maguen, na cit Nyang gengui keu alat bangunan.*
wood-RED DEM exist REL 3SG-make for firewood exist also REL 3SG-use for building. tool
'Those woods—some were made into firewood; others were used for building materials.'
- (11) *Bak bineh nyan ka geupula lom nyang laen keu geunantoe bak u nyang ka tuha nyan.*
beside DEM PRF 3SG-plant again REL other for 3SG-replace coconut REL PRF old DEM
'Besides that, other plants have already been planted again to replace the coconut tree that is already old.'

Both clauses show that the patient (*kayee-kayee nyan, nyang laen*) occupies the grammatical subject position and functions as the discourse-prominent argument, while the agent is not overtly expressed. The verbal prefix *geu-* encodes third-person features and structurally indexes the presence of an external argument, even though this argument is not lexically realized. Predicates such as *geupeuget* 'make', *gengui* 'use', *geupula* 'plant', and *geunantoe* 'replace' are eventive and denote a change in the state of the patient.

From a FDG perspective, the omission of the agent in these clauses is motivated by discourse-pragmatic factors. At the interpersonal level, the agent is treated as given or irrelevant information and is therefore backgrounded in the discourse structure. Instead, the patient is promoted as the discourse topic and becomes the focus of the narrative. At the representational level, these clauses encode dynamic events affecting an entity without

foregrounding the actor responsible for the action. At the morphosyntactic level, the prefix *geu-* realizes a functional feature that indexes argument structure, enabling agent omission without compromising the grammatical well-formedness of the clause.

Thus, the constructions in (10)(11) can be analyzed as discursively motivated agentless passives, where grammatical strategies are employed to maintain topic continuity and narrative coherence, and to highlight the resulting state or outcome experienced by the patient rather than the agent of the action.

3. Generic Passives Constructions

The generic passive construction in the Acehnese data exhibits a pattern in which the agent is either unspecified or generalized as a collective, institutional, or normative actor, thereby directing discourse focus toward the event or the patient. Syntactically, this construction still involves the promotion of the patient to the grammatical subject position and the demotion of the agent to an oblique role or its complete omission. Semantically, however, the agent is conceptualized as a generic entity that is predictable from the social and cultural context, and therefore does not require explicit linguistic expression. This analysis addresses the research objectives by showing how generic passive constructions encode participant roles through syntactic structure and how verbal prefixes function to signal generalized agents and organize discourse.

Comparable patterns have been reported for Dutch and Afrikaans, where agentless passives are likewise used to defocus the agent and foreground the event or affected entity. In both languages, agentless passives are particularly common in formal and institutional discourse, where they function as an impersonalization strategy that allows actions to be reported without identifying the actor (Breed & Olmen, 2021).

The pattern is illustrated in examples (12) and (13), where the agent of the activity can be pragmatically inferred as a particular community or social institution. In the contexts of the *Ratoh Duek* dance and the *Maulid* celebration, the actors are understood to be the local community or educational institutions, even though they are not overtly encoded in the clause structure.

(12) *Ratoh duek geumeu'en sira duek.*
Ratoh Duek 3SG-play while sit
'The Ratoh Duek dance is performed while sitting.'

(13) *Tiep-tiep thon upacara moeloet geupeuna bak sikula.*
each-each year ceremony Maulid 3SG-CAUS-exist at school
'Every year, the Maulid ceremony is held at schools.'

The generic passive construction in the Acehnese data is characterized by the generalization of the agent as a collective, institutional, or socially normative actor, thereby directing discourse focus toward the event or patient. Syntactically, the patient is promoted to subject position, while the agent is demoted or omitted. Semantically, however, the agent remains conceptually recoverable from the social context. Cross-linguistic research shows that passive constructions are often shaped by pragmatic motivations that favor the backgrounding or generalization of the agent. Studies of Finnish impersonal passives demonstrate similar strategies for encoding non-specific actors while foregrounding events

(Kaiser, 2015). Likewise, analyses of canonical passives highlight the communicative motivations behind agent deletion, distinguishing between agentive (long) and agentless (short) passives (El-Marzouk, 2010). These parallels support the interpretation of Acehese generic passives as constructions in which the actor is generalized rather than entirely absent.

In the Acehese data, generic passives are marked by dynamic predicates with the prefixes *geu-*, *ji-*, or *mu-*. The prefix *geu-* typically indexes socially prominent or collective actors, *ji-* marks plural or lower-animacy participants, and *mu-* functions as a more neutral depersonalization marker. These prefixes signal the structural presence of an external argument while allowing the agent to remain non-specific. Within the Functional Discourse Grammar framework, generic passives maintain an Actor–Undergoer configuration at the representational level, while backgrounding the Actor at the interpersonal level and encoding its structural presence morphosyntactically. This distinguishes generic passives from fully agentless constructions, in which the actor is omitted both lexically and discursively.

- (14) *Bu ngon peunajoh muba sajan*
rice and snack PASS-bring together
'Rice and snacks were brought together.'

The use of the prefix *geu-* in generic constructions, for instance in clauses referring to cultural practices or social norms in examples (15)(16), realizes verbal functional heads (e.g., *geuboh* 'throw away' and *geularang* 'prohibit') that structurally introduce an external argument without requiring the explicit mention of a specific agent. In such contexts, the agent is interpreted as a generic actor inferable from the socio-cultural setting rather than as an individuated participant.

In contrast to agentless passives, which may encode social and animacy-related distinctions through the choice of verbal prefixes, the generic passive in these cases is relatively socially neutral, as the agent is construed as an institutional or collective normative actor rather than a socially ranked individual. Consequently, the construction foregrounds the event or patient while backgrounding the actor as a generalized social entity.

- (15) *di Aceh na buleuen nyang geuboh nan buleuen Moelot*
in Aceh exist month REL 3SG-give name month Maulid
'In Aceh, there is a month that is given the name the Maulid month.'

- (16) *Tuba eungkôt nakeuh saboh buet nyang geularang.*
poison fish COP one act REL 3SG-forbid
'Poisoning fish is an act that is prohibited.'

Taken together, the data presented above indicate that Acehese passive constructions exhibit functional diversity. In addition to promoting the patient to subject position, they participate in the organization of narrative discourse by maintaining topic continuity and shaping patterns of social evaluation. The analysis further shows that passive prefixes in Acehese do not merely encode the grammatical presence of external arguments, but also reflect distinctions in agent animacy and social positioning. In this way, passive morphology interacts with discourse structure and participant hierarchy, demonstrating that Acehese passive constructions operate simultaneously at syntactic and discourse levels.

- (17) *Buet nyang geupubuet ngon jaroe geukheun buet jaroe.*
work REL 3SG-do with hand 3SG-call work hand
'Work that is done by hand is called handwork.'
- (18) *Bak tameh raja ngon bak tameh putroe geuboh ija mirah ngon ija puteh.*
at pillar king and at pillar princess 3SG-put cloth red and cloth white
'On the king's pillar and the princess's pillar, red and white cloths were placed.'

4. Stative-Resultative Constructions

Within the IGT framework, the stative-resultative construction with the prefix *geu-* occupies the lower end of the transitivity continuum, in contrast to prototypical passive constructions, which still presuppose an agent as the initiator of the event. Prototypical passives are characterized by an eventive predicate, the promotion of the patient to grammatical subject position, and the demotion of the agent to an oblique role or its structural elimination. By contrast, stative-resultative constructions foreground the resulting state without profiling the eventive process or the actor responsible for it, and therefore do not fully meet the criteria for prototypical passives (de Lima Júnior & Augusto, 2017; Embick, 2004). Stative-resultative constructions are thus located at the lower end of the transitivity continuum, as they do not encode an Actor and construe the situation as a state rather than a dynamic event (de Lima Júnior & Augusto, 2017).

This analysis addresses the research objectives by examining how stative-resultative constructions differ from prototypical passives in encoding participant roles and how verbal morphology contributes to the expression of low transitivity and discourse focus. Sentences (19)–(21) illustrate stative-resultative constructions that focus on the final state of an entity rather than on the dynamic event that brought it about. In example (19), the predicate *teu-leueng* encodes a stative condition resulting from a previous event, with the stative-resultative prefix *teu-* conceptually suppressing both the eventive process and the agent profile. In IGT, this construction exhibits a very low degree of transitivity, as it does not encode an Actor and does not construe state change as a dynamic process. Examples (20) and (21) represent transitional constructions between eventive and stative-resultative readings, where the discourse focus shifts from the event to the resulting state (de Lima Júnior & Augusto, 2017).

Examples (20) and (21) represent transitional constructions between eventive and stative-resultative readings. In (20), the predicate *geupeudông* 'build' is lexically eventive; however, when combined with the resultative expression *pika rab leungka* 'almost finished', the discourse focus shifts from the building event to the resultant state of the house. In (21), *teudông* 'already standing' explicitly encodes the result state, while the subsequent predicates (*geupeudab*, *geubôh*) introduce a sequence of subsequent events. Within the IGT framework, such constructions reflect a reduced degree of transitivity, as the semantic and discourse focus is placed on the outcome state rather than on the agent or the dynamic event structure.

- (19) *tika cit ka teu-leueng*
mat EMP PRF STAT-spread
'The mat is indeed already spread.'

- (20) *Han jat si-at rumoh nyan pika rab leungka geupeudông.*
not long one-moment house DEM almost finished 3SG-CAUS-stand
'Before long, the house was almost finished being built.'
- (21) *Oh ka teudông teuma geupeudab, geubôh bintéh, ngon peue-peue laén lom.*
when PRF STAT-stand then 3SG-roof 3SG-put wall and thing-thing other again
'Once it had been erected, it was then roofed, walls were put up, and other things were added.'

Within the FDG framework, stative-resultative constructions can be interpreted at different levels of representation. At the interpersonal level, the patient in the resulting state becomes the main discourse topic, while the agent and the eventive process are backgrounded. At the representational level, the predicate encodes a state rather than a dynamic event, so an explicit Actor–Undergoer configuration is not profiled. At the morphosyntactic level, prefixes such as *geu-* and *teu-* mark aspectual and voice-related features but do not introduce an external argument as eventive passives do. These findings suggest that not all *geu-* prefixed constructions in Acehnese should be uniformly classified as passives. Rather, some forms are more appropriately analyzed as stative-resultative constructions that morphologically resemble passives but semantically pattern with low-transitivity intransitive structures. This interpretation aligns with earlier arguments that *geu-* does not function as an inherent passive marker in Acehnese, but instead reflects a more complex interaction of voice, argument structure, and morphosyntactic features (Legate, 2012; Taib & Mulyadi, 2023). Consequently, stative-resultative constructions occupy an intermediate position within the broader voice and transitivity continuum of the language.

D. CONCLUSION

This study shows that passive constructions in Acehnese cannot be treated as a single uniform category. Instead, they form a range of constructions, including eventive, generic, agentless, and stative-resultative types. The traditional definition of passive, which focuses only on promoting the patient and demoting the agent, does not fully explain the variation found in Acehnese. The findings demonstrate that passive forms interact with discourse structure and social hierarchy. Within the Functional Discourse Grammar (FDG) framework, Acehnese passives operate across the Interpersonal, Representational, and Morphosyntactic levels. Eventive passives maintain an Actor–Undergoer structure and may include an overt or contextually understood agent. Generic passives treat the agent as a collective or socially inferable participant. Agentless and stative-resultative constructions further reduce the prominence of the Actor and show lower degrees of transitivity. These results suggest that passive constructions in Acehnese are better understood as gradient rather than strictly binary. The study also shows that prefixes such as *geu-*, *ji-*, and *mu-* do not function only as markers of voice. They also reflect differences in animacy, social hierarchy, and agent generalization. This indicates that passive morphology in Acehnese is sensitive to sociopragmatic factors.

Future research could also investigate how the use of passive constructions, particularly agentless passives, affects textual cohesion and reading comprehension in Acehnese. A high frequency of agentless forms may influence how readers identify participants, track referents, and interpret event structure within a text. Examining the relationship between

passive variation and comprehension performance could provide valuable insights for the development of reading materials and discourse-based teaching strategies in Acehese language education.

E. REFERENCES

- Begus, G., & Dąbkowski, M. (2025). *The origins of the Austronesian voice system and subject-only restriction*. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/c9765_v2
- Bogren, S. V. (2024). Takituduh Bunun and the Split Voice Hypothesis. *Available at SSRN 4832713*. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4832713>
- Breed, A., & Olmen, D. Van. (2021). The Passive as an Impersonalisation Strategy in Afrikaans and Dutch: A Corpus Investigation. *Dutch Crossing: Journal of Low Countries Studies*, 45(2), 171–207. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03096564.2021.1906598>
- Brodkin, D. (2022). Two steps to high absolutive syntax: Austronesian voice and agent focus in Mandar. *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*, 31(4), 465–516. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10831-022-09248-0>
- de Lima Júnior, J. C., & Augusto, M. R. A. (2017). *PassiveP and the Distinction between Eventive, Resultative and Stative Passives*. <https://doi.org/10.35520/diadorim.2017.v19n0a13513>
- Durie, M. (1988). The so-called passive of Acehese. *Language*, 104–113.
- El-Marzouk, G. (2009). The dynamics and statics of passive. *GAGL: Groninger Arbeiten zur germanistischen Linguistik*, 49, 1-40.
- Embick, D. (2004). On the structure of resultative participles in English. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 35(3), 355-392.
- Ginn, M., Tjuatja, L., He, T., Rice, E., Neubig, G., Palmer, A., & Levin, L. S. (2024). GlossLM: Multilingual Pretraining for Low-Resource Interlinear Glossing. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2403.06399*.
- He, T., Choi, K., Tjuatja, L., Robinson, N., Shi, J., Watanabe, S., ... & Levin, L. (2024, August). Wav2Gloss: Generating interlinear glossed text from speech. In *Proceedings of the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)* (pp. 568-582).
- Kaiser, E. (2015). Impersonal and generic reference: a cross-linguistic look at Finnish and English narratives. *Eesti Ja Soome-Ugri Keeletheaduse Ajakiri. Journal of Estonian and Finno-Ugric Linguistics*, 6(2), 9–42. <https://doi.org/10.12697/jeful.2015.6.2.01>
- Lawler, J. M. (1977). A Agrees with B in Achenese:: A Problem for Relational Grammar. In *Grammatical relations* (pp. 219–248). Brill.
- Legate, J. A. (2012). Subjects in Acehese and the nature of the passive. *Language*, 88(3), 495–525.
- Lingle, W. A. (2018). *Nominalizations, agentless passives and social actor mystification: newspaper editorials on the Greek financial crisis* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Birmingham).
- Mackenzie, J. L. (2019). 11 The Functional Discourse Grammar approach to syntax. *Current approaches to syntax: A comparative handbook*, 3. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110540253>
- Rahmah, A. T., & Subiyanto, A. (2024). Syntactic Analysis of Makassar Question Words: An X-Bar Theory Approach. *Indonesian Journal of EFL and Linguistics*, 193–210.
- Shin, N., & Miller, K. (2022). Children’s acquisition of morphosyntactic variation. *Language Learning and Development*, 18(2), 125–150. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15475441.2021.1941031>

- Syrett, K. (2024). Variation by Context: The Importance of Pragmatics and the Discourse. *Language Learning and Development*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15475441.2023.2239783>
- Taib, R., & Mulyadi. (2023). Passive Construction of Acehnese Language: X-Bar Analysis. *Retorika: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, Dan Pengajarannya*, 16.
<https://doi.org/10.26858/retorika.v16i1.32016>
- Velasco, D. G. (2025). Functional Discourse Grammar. *The Encyclopedia of Applied Linguistics*, 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781405198431.wbeal0443.pub2>
- Wegner, D. (2019). The properties of perfect (ive) and (eventive) passive participles: An identity approach. *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics*, 4(1).
- Wildan. (2010). *Kaidah Bahasa Aceh*. Geuci.
- Yan, J., & Jiang, J. (2025). Discourse analysis and High School English Reading Teaching. *International Journal of Educational Development*, 1(2), 72-79.
<https://doi.org/10.63313/ijed.9019>
- Zhao, X., Ozaki, S., Anastasopoulos, A., Neubig, G., & Levin, L. (2020, December). Automatic interlinear glossing for under-resourced languages leveraging translations. In *Proceedings of the 28th International Conference on Computational Linguistics* (pp. 5397-5408).